

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04079 310932Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGRE-00 ACDA-12 EUR-12 TRSE-00
SS-15 NSC-05 /080 W
-----055575 311947Z /45 41

R 310526Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9700
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
FBIS
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC CAMP SMITH HI.

EO 11652: N/A
TGS: EAGR, ELAB, CH, US
SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKWEEK CONTEMPLATED

1. AT LEAST ONE LOCALITY IN CHINA IS THINKING ABOUT EVEN-
TUALLY REDUCING THE AGRICULTURAL WORKWEEK FROM 48 TO 40 HOURS
TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM OF SURPLUS LABOR CREATED BY AGRICUL-
TURAL MECHANIZATION. AN AMERICAN VISITOR WHO ASKED ABOUT A COMMUNE'S
(HO LEI COMMUNE, WU HSI COUNTY, KIANGSU) PLANS FOR DEALING
WITH THIS PROBLEM WAS TOLD BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOL-
UTIONARY COMMITTEE THAT THIS COMMUNE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CREATE
NEW JOBS IN RURAL INDUSTRY, AND ALSO TO REDUCE THE WORKWEEK
FROM 48 TO 40 HOURS.

2. THE IDEA OF NEW JOBS IN LOCAL INDUSTRY IS A FAIRLY COMMON
ANSWER. A SHORTER WEEK FOR AGRICULTURAL LABORERS IS AN
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OBVIOUS ANSWER, BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ITS BEING USED BEFORE.
THE PROSPECT OF SPENDING ONE LESS DAY AT COLLECTIVE
LABOR COULD BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO MOBILIZE FARMER
SUPPORT FOR THE MECHANIZATION PROGRAM, IN PART BECAUSE
IT WOULD GIVE THEM ADDED FREE TIME TO WORK THEIR PRIVATE
PLOTS, AND THEREBY SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOMES.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
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